[28th July 1953

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government consider that it will not be in public interest to disclose the information at this stage."

Health safeguards in Nellore town.

* 1168 *Q.*—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state what steps have the Government taken to combat high mortality rates and ensure proper sanitary drainage and public health safeguards in Nellore town?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Nellore Town has got good facilities for medical aid. It has got four hospitals, a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre with prospects of another centre in the near future and a few Nursing Homes run by Private Medical Practitioners. The high mortality rate in Nellore Town is largely attributable to the rural population from the surrounding parts coming in numbers to the town for medical aid and that too in the late stages of the conditions requiring aid with attendant complications and the deaths among them being recorded in the municipality. If this is excluded, the mortality rate in Nellore town cannot be considered high.

" The existing water-supply scheme is about to be extended to certain new extensions in the town. The municipality is taking steps for providing a system of surface drains to draw off certain badly provided areas in the town."

Housing of Harijans in the City.

* 1169 *Q.*—SRI A. RATHINAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what are the plans of the Government for housing the Harijans in the City?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" In the matter of provision of house-sites to the Harijans in Madras City it has been the policy of the Government—

(i) to grant the sites in the lands which are at the disposal of the Government free of cost; and

(ii) to acquire private lands through co-operative societies formed by the Harijans themselves when the Harijans meet the cost of acquisition.

" Under item (i) above there are as many as 22 colonies where sites which were at the disposal of the Government have been assigned to Harijans free of cost. In these colonies Government have also provided the necessary sanitary amenities such as roads, drains, latrines, street lighting, etc.

" Under item (ii) above three colonies have so far been formed through co-operative societies.